

# Center ring of a media circus

## Haggard's accuser answers questions on 99.9 radio show

By **PAUL ASAY**  
THE GAZETTE

The calls came in a cascade of green and yellow — flashing lights on the studio phones. Mike Jones, the man who brought down the Rev. Ted Haggard, was in the My 99.9 FM studio Wednesday morning, and the city wanted to talk.

"It's about time somebody put him in his place," said one caller, referring to Haggard, during the morning show, hosted by Coby Hoban and Darren McKee.

"Our entire church loves him (Haggard) very much," another caller said.

Several New Life congregants invited Jones to church. Someone wondered why Jones took the story to the media without confronting Haggard privately first.

Jones, headphones on and muscled arms crossed, said that he struggled with the decision — that he literally got sick over it. He admitted that, given a chance to do it again, he might do some things differently.

But, Jones added, "I could've blackmailed him. I could've gotten a lot of money out of him."

Jones, a former male escort from Denver, has been basking in the media glare for a week. He's appeared on the "Today" show and "Good Morning America," and has been quoted in every major newspa-



CAROL LAWRENCE, THE GAZETTE

Mike Jones answered every question asked during an appearance Wednesday on My 99.9 FM's morning show. Jones hasn't turned down a single interview since he came forward about his sexual relationship with the Rev. Ted Haggard.

per in the country. The media wants him, and Jones is willing to oblige.

"It's been mind-blowing," he said of the media circus. "It's all so surreal."

Jones made his first appearance on Denver talk radio Nov. 1 as an anonymous guest accusing an anonymous pastor of drug use, gay sex and hypocrisy.

No one believed him, Jones says. He told the listeners then that they'd "eat their words." He was right.

Jones said he had a three-year sexual relationship with Haggard. From his perspective, it was all business. But he said Haggard may have loved him and begged to keep the relationship going even as Jones quit his other clients.

"Please, please, Mike, can I still call you?" Jones said Haggard asked.

He said he saw Haggard snort methamphetamine and that the pastor liked to be "cuddled." He said the sex was so "vanilla" he could've read a book during it.

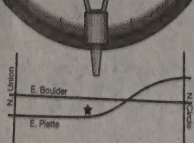
Now Jones may write one. He's already chosen a title: "Can I Ask You Something?" because those are the first words people say when they want to talk about Haggard.

The media have asked Jones everything. He's lost count of the interviews he's done, and he's yet to turn anyone away, he said. Wednesday, on his first trip to Colorado Springs in several years, he spent 90 minutes

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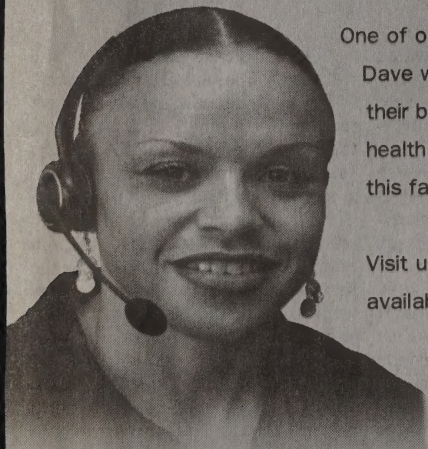
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# JONES: New details revealed in each telling

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in the studio, answering every question put to him. An impromptu interview with KKTU Channel 11 was next, and then a photo session with The Gazette. He smiled and laughed through it all — patient, obliging, quick-witted.

Jones' story is familiar to most who have been following the Haggard scandal. Jones says he knew Haggard only as "Art" for 2½ years, learning his real identity when he saw Haggard on the History Channel. He says they always met in Jones' apartment, their dalliances lasting an hour a pop. Haggard paid Jones \$200 per session, Jones says, and he tipped Jones an extra \$50 to \$100 each time.

New details surface in the retellings, though. Jones said Wednesday that Haggard wasn't nervous the first visit — "it didn't appear that it was his first time with a man."

Jones said that they met monthly for nearly three years, but that the last time they had contact was August — three months before the story broke.

"I always wondered why he had stopped calling," Jones said. "My gut reaction was I think the election was number one, and the Tom Foley thing. I think he just decided to lay low." U.S. Rep. Mark Foley re-

signed in September amid revelations that he had made improper advances to teenage Capitol pages.

Jones said he realizes that his admissions could get him in trouble with the law. He said he's willing to be accountable for what he's done, but Jones also said he never purchased meth for Haggard, claiming he just set up the pastor with a supplier.

So then what about the voicemail messages Jones saved, in which a voice that could be Haggard's asks Jones to get him "more — either a \$100 or \$200 supply"? In a later message, Haggard said "if you want to go ahead and get the stuff, then that would be great."

Jones said that Haggard called him earlier, saying he couldn't find any meth and had apparently lost contact with his supplier. Jones said Haggard asked him to help him out and sent him \$200 in advance. Jones said he did not find a supplier and applied the \$200 to "sex."

Jones admitted that the recordings make him look like a drug dealer but said he had no choice but to use them once he went public. "I needed his voice," he said. "And that's what did him in."

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number piece in the San  
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 and Wildlife Service  
 their number to be  
 a nearby larger area.  
 reply: "My people on  
 whom he would not  
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del, they will convince themselves that  
 they should not have to tolerate critics.  
 Or as Bonnicksen told me over the  
 phone, the other side is pushing for "sci-  
 ence by popular vote, and that's no sci-  
 ence at all."

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RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES DISPATCH

## QUOTE, UNQUOTE

**"America needs fewer laws,  
 not more prisons."**

**JAMES BOYARD**

**"The natural progress of  
 things is for liberty to yield  
 and government to gain  
 ground."**

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

**"They that can give up  
 essential liberty to obtain a  
 little temporary safety,  
 deserve neither liberty nor  
 safety."**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

## PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM

not a political grant from government. Freedom is neither license nor an-  
 must be consistent with the truths expressed in such great moral guides  
 e and the Declaration of Independence. These were the principles that  
 der R.C. Hoiles and his descendants. They continue to be the basis of Our  
 pose of their authors.